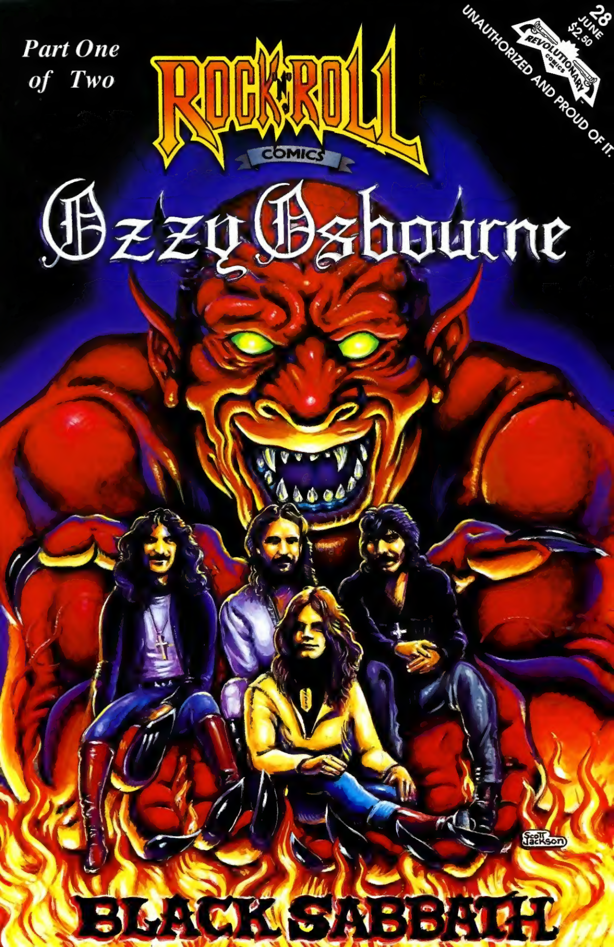

Part One of Two
ROCK 'N' ROLL
COMICS
Ozzy Osbourne
28
JUNE
$2.50
REVOLUTIONARY COMICS
UNAUTHORIZED AND PROUD OF IT.
Scott Jackson
BLACK SABBATH

★★★ REVOLUTIONARY COMMENTS ★★★

519 University Avenue, Suite 103 ❐ San Diego, CA 92103

By Todd Loren

CONGRATULATIONS

Congrats to Stuart Immonen. After working for Revolutionary for only a few months, he's landed a position making storyboards for a new Batman cartoon which will be appearing soon! This just goes to show that the system works. This is one of the great benefits of working for an independent company such as RevCom. It's true, we can't pay as much as the big guys (Marvel & DC), but generally speaking, we can give exposure to artists whom the big guys might not want to take a chance on, and this leads to opportunities such as the one Stuart encountered.

We're going to miss Stuart, because he did some great work for us, and he was, and no doubt will continue to be, a good friend.

WANTED: GOOD ARTISTS

If you think you've got what it takes to create the professional quality art you see each month in Rock N' Roll Comics, send us a sample of your stuff! *Please* - no superheroes! Send art that applies to our subject matter!

MINI-BIOS, SATIRES: STAY OR GO?

We need your opinion! You may have noticed that, lately, our band bios have been getting longer, leaving little or no room for satires, mini-bios, and mini-features like Stan Back, Twisted Image, and Dean Hsieh. So what do you think about this development? Would you like us to bring back the mini-bios and satires, or do you prefer the longer band bios? *It's up to you!*

ROCK N' ROLL COMICS MAGAZINE-NOT

The magazine version of Rock N' Roll Comics has been put on the back burner for now (as of #7). The idea, of course, was to get our comic books into mainstream outlets. We've decided to concentrate on the book compilations, but the best bet for collectors is the comic books.

LETTERS

"Hey Todd,

What's up bud? Not a whole hell of a lot here. Just same ol' shit. The reason I wrote was because I had just picked up issue #19, and read "A Little History." I was kind of touched. More like inspired. You claimed that you had wanted to do something and ya did it on your own. No help from parents, friends, or elders, etc. The fact you did something on your own is quite an accomplishment. A really cool satisfaction, fucking pride.

What I am getting at is this: I have been a drug addict / alcoholic for quite some time (I am 21 years of age), and I have really gotten nowhere in life. Dropped out of school and have a shitty grave yard job. I have a lot of dreams and would like to leave this world feeling like I did something worth the shit. To make a long story short, I have quit drugs, going for a GED, and am looking for a trade school, for a decent career, something I'm doing on my own! You don't know how fucking good I feel knowing I'm doing something for myself, without any help! Thank you for showing me the light.

Enough with that shit. I also wanted to let ya know I think you're doing a great job. I have every issue so far and I like them ALL. I agree 100% with your choice to put groups other than hard rock in your issues. You are open-minded, something other people should be like.

Well, thanks for listening. I'm not sure if you understood what I was talking about earlier, but think of it this way: You can go to bed knowing you helped somebody turn their life around. Be proud. Stand tall. And don't take anybody's shit.

You RULE! Your bud,
Derek Breit
511 E. Flower St.
Phoenix, AZ 85021"

It's letters like this that make it all worthwhile, folks. Just keep believing in yourself, Derek, and you 'll do just fine! Peace.

COMING UP...
***This Month:* RNR #27 (Doors pt. 2), The Pink Floyd Experience #1**
***Next Month:* RNR #29 - Ozzy Osbourne (pt. 2), #30 - The Cure, The Beatles Experience #3 - The Sgt. Pepper issue!**

ROCK N' ROLL COMICS is published by REVOLUTIONARY COMICS, INC., Todd Loren, President. Office of publication: 519 University Ave., Suite 103, San Diego, CA 92103. Published twice monthly. Copyright (c) 1991 Revolutionary Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No. 28 First printing July 1991 issue. Price U.S. $2.50. No similarity between any of the names, persons, and/or institutions with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental, with the exception of satirical and/or biographical content. Biographical material contained herein is unauthorized unless noted otherwise. Printed in the U.S.A. The "Rock N' Roll Comics", "Rockomics", and "Revolutionary Comics" logos are trademarks of Revolutionary Comics, Inc.

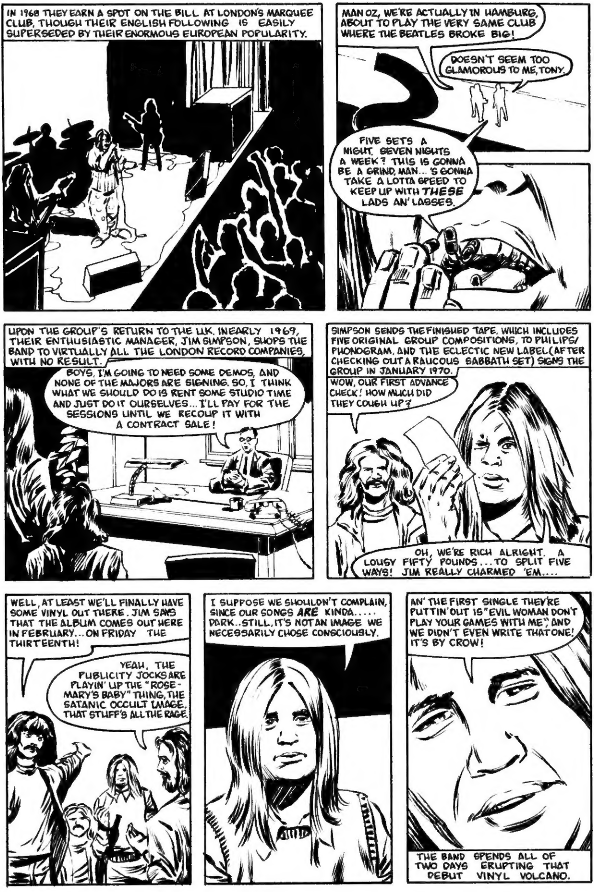
BLACK SABBATH and OZZY OSBOURNE
SUPERTZARS
WRITER JAY ALLEN SANFORD
ARTIST/LETTERER MARC ERICKSON
EDITOR TODD LOREN
TO PROPERLY TRACE THE INCEPTION OF ROCK'S BLACKEST SONIC BACCHANALIA WE MUST PAD THE PAPER WALKWAYS ALL THE WAY BACK TO 1948. THREE YEARS AFTER WWII'S CRUSHING FINALE, PARTS OF THE INDUSTRIAL CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND ARE STILL BURNED AND BOMBED-OUT GHETTO HUSKS. ONE SUCH HELL-HOLE IS CALLED *ASTON*.
JOHN MICHAEL OSBOURNE IS BORN DECEMBER 3rd THE FOURTH OFSIX CHILDREN, AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE THROWN INTO A CYCLONIC DEPRESSING ROUTINE OF NATIONAL POSTWAR TENSION AND PERSONAL POVERTY. ALL SIX OSBOURNE SIBLINGS SHARE A TWO-BEDROOM HOUSE.
LODGE ROAD #14

JOHN'S INTRADERMAL NICKNAME STEMS FROM A SCHOOLYARD JIBE.
'EY, OSBOURNE, YER JUST A FAIRY FROM OZ, AINTCHA? OZZY-BOURNE? AH, GIMME 2P, WILLYA "OZZY"?
AS A STREET-HARDENED TEEN, OZ BEGINS ROBBING GAS METERS AND EXTORTING CASH FROM LUCK-LESS SOCCER MATCH ATTENDEES.
MIND YOUR CAR FOR YOU WHILE YOU'RE INSIDE, SIR?
UH, NO, NOT REALLY. THANKS ANYWAY.
WELL, THEN, IT'D BE A SHAME IF SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED TO IT, WOULDN'T IT NOW?
OH! WELL, UH... HERE'S A POUND NOTE. IS THAT ENOUGH?
AROUND 1962 HE BECOMES ENAMORED OF THE BURGEONING "TEDDY BOY" SCENE
THE AMERICANS REALLY GOT IT SUSSED. ROCKERS LIKE GENE VINCENT AND EDDIE COCHRAN... I WOULDN'T MIND A JOB LIKE THAT!
YEAH, THAT'D GET ME OUT OF THIS BLOODY TOILET OF A TOWN!
I'M ONLY 15 YEARS OLD NOW, AND NOTHIN'S COMING OUTTA THIS SCHOOL CRAP, THAT'S FOR SURE.
I SHOULD JUST UP AN' QUIT!
THE ONLY THING I EVER GOT OUT OF SCHOOL WAS A FREE BUS PASS!

ONE OF OZZY'S EARLY MYRIAD OCCUPATIONS IS AT A SLAUGHTER-HOUSE IN DIGBETH.
WHISTLE WHILE YOU WORK...
ANOTHER GIG IS A PLUMBER'S ASSISTANT...
HE EVEN DOES A STINT AT THE FACTORY WHERE HIS MOTHER, LILIAN, WORKS...TESTING THE HORNS ON NEW AUTOMOBILES!
YEAH, THAT'S THE RIGHT TONE! JUST LOUD ENOUGH TO RATTLE THE OLD EARDRUMS, GIVE THE BONES A HUM-JOB.
KINDA-MUSICAL, INNIT?
HONK!
HOWEVER, HIS CONTINUING CLUMSY FELONIOUS CAREER COMES TO AN UNAVOIDABLE CONCLUSION.
'ERE, NOW, WOT'S ALL THIS NOW, THEN?
YOUNG OZZY EARNS SIX WEEKS IN WINSON GREEN PRISON, ON A GRAND LARCENY CHARGE, WHEN HE AND HIS PARTNER ARE NABBED BREAKING INTO AN OCCUPIED BOARDING HOUSE! OZ SHARES A CELL WITH A CONFESSED MURDERER....
OKAY, I'VE GOT THE PIN AND THE GRAPHITE NOW THEN, WHAT SHALL I TATTOO? I COULD DRAW SOME SMILIN' FACES ON ME KNEES TO KINDA CHEER ME UP IN THE MORNINGS.
THEN, WHEN I GAVE 'ER NECK A GOOD SQEEZE, THE EYEBALLS CAME BOBBING OUT LIKE A BULLFROG..
THERE, I LIKE THAT ONE!!!
OZZY

AFTER HIS RELEASE, OZZY BUMPS INTO AN OLD MATE WHILE AIMLESSLY WANDERING THROUGH THE BLEAK, DINGY STREETS OF BIRMINGHAM.
YEAH, OZ, I'VE GOT THIS BAND GOING, "APPROACH." BUT WE DON'T HAVE A SINGER YET.
ARE YOU KIDDIN' ?! Y'KNOW I'M A SINGER!
'CEPTIN' THE FACT THAT I NEVER SANG IN FRONT OF ANYONE BEFORE!
OZZY SOON QUITS THE LACKADASICAL OUTFIT TO SING WITH "MUSIC MACHINE" AND FROM THAT POINT ON HIS SOUL IS TAINTED BY THE LURE OF ROCK'S POWERFUL, AMPLIFIED CLOUT.
1964 FINDS OZ WITHOUT A STEADY GIG.
THIS IS MY LAST FIVE POUNDS. I'VE GOTTA COME UP WITH A WAY TO GET INTO A STEADY, WORKIN' BAND. NONE OF THE BLOKES WHO KNOW ME WILL PUT UP WITH MY RANDY SCOUSE WAYS!
LOOKING FOR A SINGER? PROFESSIONAL ROCKER
OZZY ZIG SINGER EXTRAORDINAR
THE GAMBIT WORKS AS, TWO DAYS LATER, OZ IS OPENING HIS DOOR TO ADMIT FELLOW ASTON RESIDENT TERRY "GEEZER" BUTLER.
I PLAY BASS WITH 'RARE BREED,' AND WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN DO A GOOD, HARD JAMES BROWN THING. I'VE ALREADY GOT A KILLER SLIDE GUITARIST.
WELL YER LOOKIN' AT HIM! I CAN PEEL THE PAINT OFFA VOLKSWAGON FROM THIRY PACES WHEN MY CHORDS ARE WAILIN'!
THE NEXT TO JOIN IS ANOTHER LOCAL STRAGGLER, DRUMMER BILL WARD.
BILL, YOU'RE NOT TOO GOOD FOR THAT SKIFFLE GROUP, "MYTHOLOGY." YOU AND THAT LEFTY GUITARIST, TONY IOMMI, SHOULD THINK ABOUT GETTING INTO A HEAVY BLUES BAND LIKE OURS!
WELL, I COULD BE TALKED INTO MOONLIGHTING WITH YOUR GROUP, BUT TONY'S PRETTY COMMITED TO THE OTHER GUYS.

HOWEVER, DURING A PARTY AT THEIR RHYTHM GUITARIST'S HOUSE, BILL SINGS HIS BAND'S SPLENDORS TO THE RECALCITRANT YOUNG STRING-BENDER.
WELL, TONY, RARE BREED IS PLAYIN' ALL OVER THE MIDLANDS NOW. WE'RE DOING JAZZ CLUBS, PLAYIN 12-BAR BLUES... WHAT'RE THE OLD BOYS IN MYTHOLOGY UP TO ?
YOU KNOW DAMNED WELL THAT WE'RE OFF THE SHOOTING LISTS ALL OVER THE CIRCUIT. BURNED OUT OUR WELCOME ALREADY, DIDN'T WE ?
SAY, ARE YOU GUYS STILL CONSIDERING HIRING A SECOND GUITARIST ?
EVENTUALLY PARING DOWN TO THE DEFINITVE FOUR-MAN LINEUP, THE HARD-HITTNG QUARTET CHANGE THEIR NAME IN 1967 TO "POLKA TULK" (!?!) AND THEN TO "EARTH." THEY TACKLE ALL THE LOW-PAYING AND GUTTERBALL GIGS TOSSED THEIR HUNGRY WAY.
Y'KNOW, THIS WHOLE RHYTHM AND BLUES SCENE IS DYING OUT, BESIDES OUR SPOT AT THE BLUES-HOUSE, MOST CLUBS JUST AREN'T HIRING US ANY-MORE.
WELL WE COULD GO FOR THE HEAVIER BLUE CHEER SOUND.
KIND OF LIKE IN THAT SONG I WROTE WITH TONY, "BLACK SABBATH."
UHMMM...
YEAH, WITH LYRICS ABOUT REALITY..... DEATH, MONEY, PAIN. JUST THE OPPOSITE OF THAT AMERICAN "FLOWER POWER" CRAP. OUR MUSIC SHOLD RE-FLECT WHERE WE'RE COMING FROM!
BIRMINGHAM, IN DOWNTOWN HELL!
OUR NAME SHOULD CONJURE UP THE SAME IMAGE. I LIKE GEEZER'S TITLE.... BLACK SABBATH!!


IN 1968 THEY EARN A SPOT ON THE BILL AT LONDON'S MARQUEE CLUB, THOUGH THEIR ENGLISH FOLLOWING IS EASILY SUPERSEDED BY THEIR ENORMOUS EUROPEAN POPULARITY.
MAN OZ, WE'RE ACTUALLY IN HAMBURG, ABOUT TO PLAY THE VERY SAME CLUB WHERE THE BEATLES BROKE BIG!
DOESN'T SEEM TOO GLAMOROUS TO ME, TONY.
FIVE SETS A NIGHT, SEVEN NIGHTS A WEEK? THIS IS GONNA BE A GRIND, MAN... 'S GONNA TAKE A LOTTA SPEED TO KEEP UP WITH THESE LADS AN' LASSES.
UPON THE GROUP'S RETURN TO THE U.K. IN EARLY 1969, THEIR ENTHUSIASTIC MANAGER, JIM SIMPSON, SHOPS THE BAND TO VIRTUALLY ALL THE LONDON RECORD COMPANIES, WITH NO RESULT.
BOYS, I'M GOING TO NEED SOME DEMOS, AND NONE OF THE MAJORS ARE SIGNING. SO, I THINK WHAT WE SHOULD DO IS RENT SOME STUDIO TIME AND JUST DO IT OURSELVES... I'LL PAY FOR THE SESSIONS UNTIL WE RECOUP IT WITH A CONTRACT SALE!
SIMPSON SENDS THE FINISHED TAPE, WHICH INCLUDES FIVE ORIGINAL GROUP COMPOSITIONS, TO PHILIPS/ PHONOGRAM, AND THE ECLECTIC NEW LABEL (AFTER CHECKING OUT A RAUCOUS SABBATH SET) SIGNS THE GROUP IN JANUARY 1970.
WOW, OUR FIRST ADVANCE CHECK! HOW MUCH DID THEY COUGH UP?
OH, WE'RE RICH ALRIGHT. A LOUSY FIFTY POUNDS... TO SPLIT FIVE WAYS! JIM REALLY CHARMED 'EM....
WELL, AT LEAST WE'LL FINALLY HAVE SOME VINYL OUT THERE. JIM SAYS THAT THE ALBUM COMES OUT HERE IN FEBRUARY... ON FRIDAY THE THIRTEENTH!
YEAH, THE PUBLICITY JOCKS ARE PLAYIN' UP THE "ROSEMARY'S BABY" THING, THE SATANIC OCCULT IMAGE. THAT STUFF'S ALL THE RAGE.
I SUPPOSE WE SHOULDN'T COMPLAIN, SINCE OUR SONGS ARE KINDA..... DARK..STILL, IT'S NOT AN IMAGE WE NECESSARILY CHOSE CONSCIOUSLY.
AN' THE FIRST SINGLE THEY'RE PUTTIN' OUT IS "EVIL WOMAN DON'T PLAY YOUR GAMES WITH ME," AND WE DIDN'T EVEN WRITE THAT ONE! IT'S BY CROW!
THE BAND SPENDS ALL OF TWO DAYS ERUPTING THAT DEBUT VINYL VOLCANO.

THE SINGLE STIFFS (EVEN AFTER RE-RELEASE IN APRIL ON PHILIPS' NEW SUB-LABEL, VERTIGO,) HOWEVER, THE EPONYMOUS ALBUM RACKS UP QUICK NOTCHES ON THE BRITISH CHARTS THROUGH SPRING (TO BE RELEASED LATER IN THE YEAR IN AMERICA), AS THE GROUP MAKES THE U.K. FESTIVAL SCENE WITH THE LIKES OF HUMBLE PIE, TRAFFIC, AND THE GRATEFUL DEAD!
IN THE FALL OF 1970, THEY SEQUESTER THEMSELVES IN THE STUDIO FOR A FRANTIC SIX-DAY RECORDING SESSION, THOUGH NOT WITHOUT A FEW LENGTHY BREAKS FOR "LUBRICATION."
LOOKS LIKE OZZY'S TRIPPIN' AGAIN! THE NUTTER....
AW, C'MON GEEZER, YOU CAN ANTE UP A BETTER BET THAN THAT! WE'VE GOT A TOP TEN ALBUM, WE'RE BLEEDIN' SUPERSTARS!
VERY FUNNY, TONY. AIN'T A ONE OF US SEEN A BLOODY CENT SINCE THE ALBUM CAME OUT! SIMPSON'S JUST GIVING US AWAY! ALL THE LITTLE PISSPOT GIGS HE COMMITTED US TO BEFORE THE ALBUM HIT!
YEAH, I AM STILL A LITTLE BENT ABOUT THAT PIDDLY ADVANCE, TOO. BUT AT LEAST WE'RE GETTIN' SOME PRESTIGE GIGS, AND LOTS OF PRESS TO BOOT!
THE PRESS IS PRETTY SARCASTIC THOUGH, INNIT? DIDJA HEAR THE NEWEST ONE FOR THE GRIST-MILL, ABOUT HOW "N.I.B" IS SUPPOSED TO STAND FER "NATIVITY IN BLACK"? THIS SATAN THING COULD EASILY GET A LITTLE FAR OUT....
WELL, WE KNOW THAT THE SONG IS ABOUT THAT LITTLE "NIB" ON YOUR CHIN THAT YOU CALL A BEARD, BILL! WHY SHOULD WE WORRY ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE READ INTO OUR TITLES?
'CAUSE "OTHER PEOPLE" BUY THE ALBUMS! WE DON'T WANNA ANTAGONIZE EVERYONE WHO CAN GRIND US UP LIKE MEAT IF WE SEND 'EM OFF! LIKE, IN AMERICA RIGHT NOW, WITH THE MANSON MURDER AND ALL THE SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE VIET-NAM WAR....
AND HERE WE ARE RELEASIN' AN ALBUM CALLED "WAR PIGS"!
HMMM, YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT. MAYBE WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT CHANGING THE TITLE. YOU CAN NEVER BE TOO PARANOID, NOWADAYS.
DAMN RIGHT! THAT SHOULD BE THE TITLE SONG... PARANOID!

IN THE WEEKS BEFORE "PARANOID" COMES OUT, THE GROUP IS SCHEDULED FOR A MAJOR EUROPEAN SUPPORT JAUNT.
JIM'S GOT US BOOKED AT MUNICH WITH DEEP PURPLE, IN MONTREUX WITH THE DOORS... HE'S FINALLY THINKIN' BIG ENOUGH TO ACCOMMODATE OUR FAME, EH GEEZER?
NO CHEQUES
I'M STILL NOT SO SURE. WHERE'S THE CASH THAT COMES WITH FAME? AN' WHY DO WE HAFTA DO BLOODY "TOP OF THE POPS"?!
THE CLASSIC CRUNCHER TOPS THE U.K. CHARTS, AND THE TITLE SINGLE LIKEWISE TASTES THE TOP 10.
BLACK SABBATH
PARANOID
THAT WAS JIM. WE'VE GOT A FIRM OFFER TO PLAY SOME U.S. COLLEGE SHOWS IN THE LATE SUMMER, BUT HE'S NOT SURE IF WE SHOULD GO.
BLOODY HELL, WHY NOT?!?
WELL, THERE'S THE MANSON THING OVER THERE AND ALL, Y'KNOW. HE'S PROBABLY RIGHT. THING'S ARE GETTIN' STRANGE OUT THERE. HOW ABOUT THOSE WEIRDIES THAT WANTED US TO PLAY FOR THEIR COVEN AT STONEHENGE?
AH, THAT WAS A FREAKY ONE ALL RIGHT! WHEN WE SAID NO, THAT HEAD WARLOCK, ALEX SAUNDERS, HAD TO PLACE US UNDER A "SPELL OF PROTECTION", TO KEEP US SAFE FROM THE ANGRY BLACK MASSES! BUT ONLY IF WE KEEP WEARIN' OUR CROSSES!

WHEN SOME OF THE ROYALTY MONEY FINALLY TRICKLES IN, OZ WASTES NO TIME BURYING HIMSELF IN DRUGS, CARS AND (ESPECIALLY) CLOTHES.
'S FOR ME MUM, Y'KNOW. EXCEPT THE BRA... THAT ONE'S MINE.
30% OFF!
IN THE WINTER OF 1970, THEY BEGIN THEIR U.S. ODYSSEY. THE LADS ARE AWESTRUCK AT THE DECADENT TABLEAU OF AMERICAN CULTURE THAT SPREADS OUT BEFORE THEM.
THINGS ARE DECIDEDLY WEIRD, AS A MEMPHIS FAN PAINTS A LARGE RED CROSS ON THEIR DRESSING ROOM DOOR.
TONY IS LATER ATTACKED BY A KNIFE WIELDING FAN-ATIC, AND HE IS SAVED BY THE INTERVENTION OF THEIR NEWLY-HIRED BURLY SECURITY GUARD.
BY CHRISTMAS 1970, THEY'VE PUSHED THE FIRST ALBUM TO #23 IN THE STATES, AND BOTH LPS ARE PLATINUM U.K. SELLERS. THEY RETURN TO THE STUDIO TO BEGIN THE LENGTHY (AT LEAST COMPARATIVELY) RECORDING OF THE "MASTER OF REALITY" ALBUM.

LATER HEADLINING THROUGHOUT EUROPE, OZ BRINGS OUT THE GLITTER JUMPSUITS AND INCONGRUOUS PEACE SIGNS WHILE GEEZER BEGINS THE RITUAL OF SWINGING HIS HEAD LIKE A BESERKER CAVEMAN, VIRTUALLY INVENTING THE "HEADBANGER" ACT.
IN 1971, ON APRIL FOOLS DAY, OZ TAKES A BRIEF BREAK TO MARRY(?!?), ONLY TO FLY IMMEDIATELY FOR AMERICA.
JEEZ, OZ, DIDN'T YOU AT LEAST HAVE A HONEYMOON?
WHAT FOR? I'VE ALREADY BALLED 'ER!
THERE'S LOTSA NEW BOSSY WAITIN' TO BE HERDED IN THE STATES!
OZZY'S DESPICABLE PERSONAL HABITS AND PHILOSOPHIES ASIDE, THE TOUR IS A MEGA-SUCCESS.
THE ALBUM ISN'T DUE OUT UNTIL JULY, BUT IT SAYS HERE THAT IT'S GOIN' GOLD ON ADVANCE ORDERS ALREADY!
YEAH, AND THIS RAG ACTUALLY WANTS TO DO A FEATURE ON US!
RollingSt
OZ WAXES LOQUACIOUSLY FOR THE (ONE-TIME) INFLUENTIAL "RAG".
I'LL DO THAT BEFORE I'M FORTY, I KNOW I WILL!
A CASHBOX POLL LISTS THEM AS ONE OF THE TOP THREE VOCAL GROUPS, BUT MOST OF THE PRESS REMAINS UNMOVED, EVEN AS SABBATH'S UNDERGROUND SUCCESS AND SALES (FUELED BY REVERENT WORD-OF-MOUTH) STEAMROLL OVER ANY QUIBBLING JOURNALISTIC DISSENSION.
DISSENSION WITHIN THE SABBATH CAMP IS ENTIRELY ANOTHER MATTER.
LISTEN, QUIT TEARIN' UP THE BLEEDIN' GIDEON BIBLES EVERY TIME WE WALK INTO A HOTEL ROOM!
IT'S PISSIN' ME OFF!
BUT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE A CERTIFIED LOON, AIN'T I? ISN'T THAT WHAT WE'RE SELLIN', ALONG WITH THE CROSSES AND WITCHCRAFT?
YOU'RE SO BLOODY SERIOUS, TONY, YER STARTIN' TO BORE THE CRAP OUTTA ME!

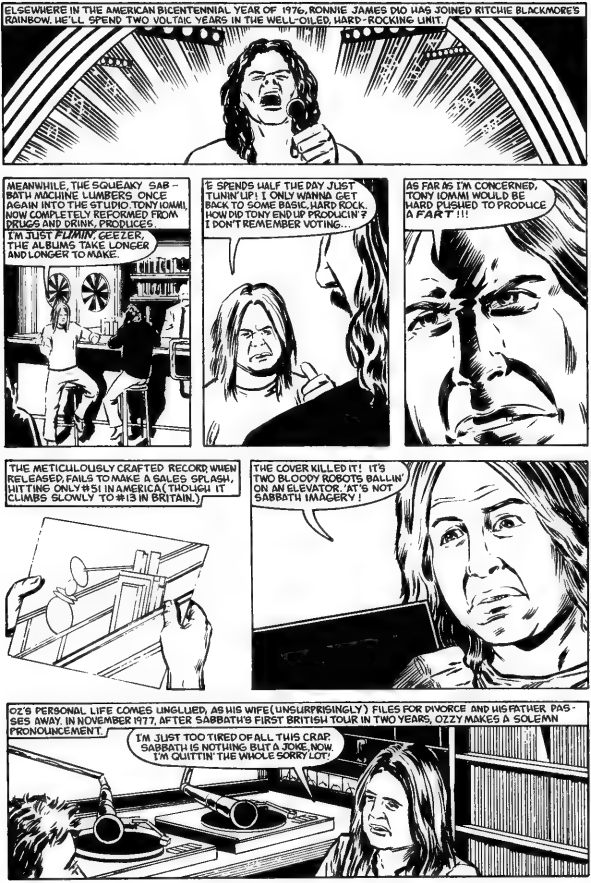
IN SEPTEMBER 1971, AS "MASTER OF REALITY" NEARS #8 STATESIDE AND #5 IN BRITAIN, THE BOYS ARE REALLY CRUISING THE FAST LANE.
MAN, OZZY, THIS BACKSTAGE SCENE IS BECOMING A PHARMACEUTICAL CIRCUS!
YEAH, AIN'T IT GREAT? ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFETS OF COKE AND ACID.
OZZY, HOWEVER, PARTAKES IN MORE THAN HE CAN HANDLE, PRECIPITATING THE CANCELLATION OF A WINTER '71 U.K. TOUR, OFFICIALLY BECAUSE OF "BURNOUT AND EXHAUSTION."
HOWEVER, THE 1972 WORLD TOUR, INCLUDING AMERICA, IS ON. AS THE U.S. SINGLE FOR "IRON MAN" CHARTS OZ'S REPREHENSIBLE INSPIRATIONS CONTINUE.
KEEP IT DOWN TO AN EVEN DOZEN, OZ. US AND THE CREW ARE SPENDIN' A FORTUNE IN DOCTOR AND PENICILLIN BILLS!
DON'T WORRY, WE DON'T ATTRACT THE LOOKERS ANYMORE. MOST OF THESE CREATURES LOOK HORRID, ESECIALLY THE NEXT MORNIN' WHEN YOU ROLL OVER AND SEE SOMETHIN' THAT LOOKS LIKE PICASSO PAINTED IT ON A BAD DAY!
YEAH, I'VE HAD SOME REAL TWO-BAGGERS.
TWO-BAGGERS?
WHEN YOU NEED ONE FOR HER HEAD, AND ANOTHER FOR YOURS IN CASE ANYONE COMES IN THE ROOM AND SEES YOU IN BED WITH HER!
GAR, THAT ONE'S UGLY.... SOMETHIN' MUSTA BEEN WRONG WITH HER OLD MAN'S PLONKER!

WHY ISN'T TONY HERE? HAVE YOU NOTICED THAT HE DOESN'T DRINK WITH US ANYMORE, AND HOW HE SPENDS LESS AND LESS TIME HANGIN' OUT?
'S BECAUSE HE SPENDS ALL FLIPPIN' DAY AND NIGHT PRETENDIN' TO BE JESUS-BLOODY-SUPERSTAR! HE TAKES AGES TO LAY DOWN A SOLO IN THE STUDIO...
AND NOW HE'S WASTIN' TIME ON THE SOUNDBOARD! FANCIES HIMSELF A PRODUCER, HE DOES.
AS THE GROUP BEGINS RECORDING "BLACK SABBATH VOLUME 4", TONY'S SLOW AND METICULOUS STUDIO DEMEANOR WEIGHS ON THE OTHER MEMBERS' CREATIVITY.
JUST ONE MORE RUN THROUGH, BOYS THE TONE'S NOT QUITE RICH ENOUGH...
THE RECORD IS OUT IN SEPTEMBER, 1972, AND BY OCTOBER IS AT U.S.#13 AND U.K #8.
EVEN AS RADIOS WORLDWIDE BLAST OUT LOVING ANTHEMS LIKE "SNOW-BLIND," THEIR PAEAN TO SKIING MOUNTAINS OF CRYSTALLINE NOSE-POWDER, TROUBLE MANAGES TO FIND THEM IN MEMPHIS TENNESEE.
MAN, I GOTTA TAKE A LEAK. I CAN'T WAIT ANOTHER MINUTE..
AAHHHHH, THAT'S THE RELIEF!
WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED WITH THAT, BUDDY, PUT IT AWAY AND WE'LL TAKE A LITTLE RIDE DOWNTOWN.
TAP TAP

ALSO IN THE WINTER OF 1972, THEY FIRE MANAGER JIM SIMPSON ... VIA THE MAIL.
THEY'RE SACKING ME! AFTER I LENT THEM MONEY FOR THEIR FIRST DEMOS! HELL I JUST GAVE 'EM 100 POUNDS FOR TRAVELING EXPENSES!
I KNOW THEY THINK I'VE BEEN A LITTLE "NAIVE" ABOUT MONEY, BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH! I'LL FILE SUIT AGAINST THE SODS AND ANYONE WHO TRIES TO PICK UP THEIR MANAGEMENT CONTRACT!
THE CASE ISN'T SETTLED UNTIL MARCH 1976, WHEN SIMPSON IS AWARDED 35,000 POUNDS IN DAMAGES.
1973 FINDS THE GROUP FINALLY ROLLING IN MATERIAL GAINS, AS THEY ALL BUY HOUSES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE. OZ STUFFS HIS STAFFORDSHIRE FARMHOUSE WITH JUKE-BOXES, PINBALL MACHINES, GUNS, AND CARS, AS HE TAKES SOME DOMESTIC TIME OFF TO BE WITH HIS CHILDREN, JESSICA AND LEWIS.
WANNA SEE DADDY'S FAMOUS "TECHNICOLOR YAWN"? IT'S ONLY FAIR... YOU KEEP CHUCKIN' ON ME!
MONEY, WOMEN, CARS, LIMOS... THE BAND IS FLYING HIGH AS THEY STUMBLE INTO THE STUDIO TO RECORD THEIR FIFTH ALBUM IN THREE YEARS, "SABBATH BLOODY SABBATH."
MEANWHILE... ONT ON THE CONCERT TRAIL, DIMINUTIVE ELVEN SINGER RON PADAVONA (A.K.A. RONNIE JAMES DIO) IS TOURING WITH A CONGLOMERATE KNOWN AS ELF. THEY PLAY BACKUP TO METAL-PURVEYORS DEEP PURPLE.
RONNIE CATCHES THE DISCERNING EYE OF PURPLE BASSIST, ROGER GLOVER.
MAN, YOU CAN WAIL! LISTEN, I'M THINKING ABOUT FORMING A SIDE BAND NEXT YEAR. IT'D BE GREAT IF YOU COULD SING WITH US...
RONNIE SINGS ON GLOVER'S "BUTTERFLY BALL." MEANWHILE, ON THE SABBATH FRONT.......

MUCH OF 1973 FINDS SABBATH STILL IN THE STUDIO, LOOKING FOR A FULLER, MORE COMPLEX APPROACH TO THEIR DOOMSDAY LITANY. AT LEAST, TONY IS...
OZZY'S LARYNGETIC GROWL HAS ACHIEVED A COARSE PERFECTION, THOUGH HIS PATIENCE WITH IOMMI WEARS INCREASINGLY THIN.
"KILLING YOURSELF TO LIVE!"
THE ALBUM IS OUT IN DECEMBER 1973, AND IT QUICKLY CLIMBS THE CHARTS ALONG WITH OTHER NEWLY-TERMED "HEAVY METAL" CLASSICS FROM DEEP PURPLE, LED ZEPPELIN AND BLUE OYSTER CULT. IT EVENTUALLY HITS #11 IN THE U.S. AND #4 IN BRITAIN
FOLLOWING A PROLONGED BREAK TO SORT OUT THEIR LEGAL HASSLES WITH FORMER MANAGEMENT, THEY SPEND FIVE MONTHS IN THE STUDIO, DURING 1975, RECORDING "SABOTAGE."
TONY'S DOIN' MORE AND MORE TIME BEHIND THE BOARD. HE JUST LOVES THE ELECTRONICS.
HIS GUITAR SOLOS GO ON FOR HOURS, ESPECIALLY LIVE! I USED TO WALK OFF-STAGE AND HAVE A CIGARETTE AT FIRST. THEN I FOUND I HAD TIME FOR A COUPLA BEERS, TOO.
NOW, I CAN GO ACROSS THE ROAD FOR A THREE-COURSE MEAL, AND STILL GET BACK IN TIME FER THE NEXT BLOODY VERSE!

OZZY DOES A SERIES OF PRESS INTERVIEWS, AFTER "SABOTAGE" IS UNLEASHED UPON AN UNWARY PUBLIC IN JULY 1974 (HITTING #28 IN AMERICA AND #7 IN ENGLAND).
SO HERE I AM, BUGGERED AND BEAT FROM SIX MONTHS OF TOURIN'. LOOKIN' FORWARD TO A BREAK. AND WHAT DO I FIND?
IT'S FROM THE NEW MANAGERS....THEY SAY "DON'T FORGET, YOU'RE IN THE STUDIO ON MONDAY!" BLOODY HELL!!!
"WELL, I JUST FREAKED OUT. STARTED SHOOTIN' UP THE WIFE'S CHICKENS. IT WAS A FARM, Y'KNOW.... "
KCHOOM
"SO THERE'S MY NEIGHBOR, STARIN' OVER THE FENCE AT ME."
HHHMMMMM, UNWINDING A BIT, ARE WE JOHN?
THEY FIRE THEIR NEWEST MANAGERS BECAUSE OF REDICULOSLY GRUELING TOUR AND RECORDING SCHEDULES, AND A LACK OF FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, THEN SPEND MONTHS SORTING OUT THE SPLIT.
DID YOU KNOW THAT PREVIOUS MANAGEMENT SOLD ALL OUR PUBLISHING RIGHTS, AND WE NEVER EVEN HEARD ABOUT IT?! WE'VE BEEN GETTING SCREWED FRONTWARDS, SIDEWAYS AND BACKWARDS!

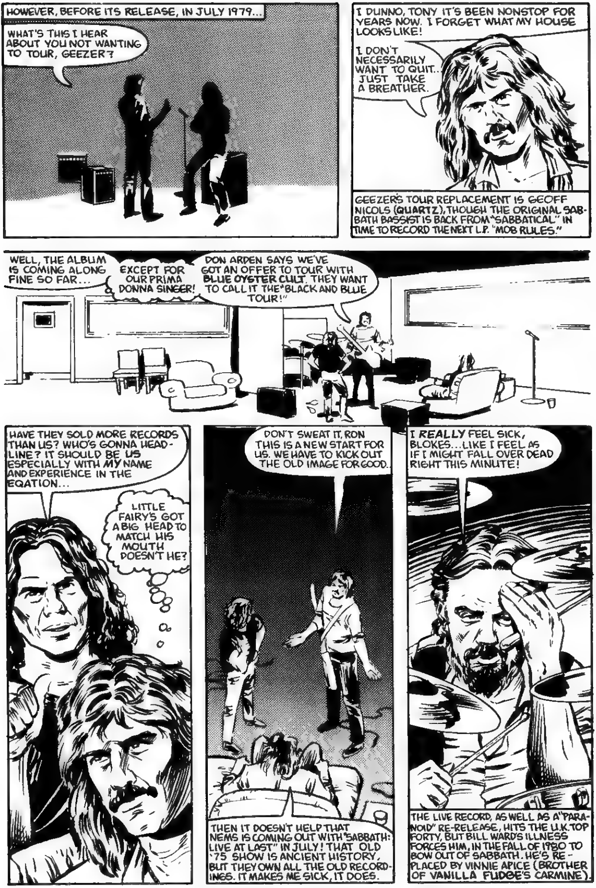

ELSEWHERE IN THE AMERICAN BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF 1976, RONNIE JAMES DIO HAS JOINED RITCHIE BLACKMORE'S RAINBOW. HE'LL SPEND TWO VOLTAIC YEARS IN THE WELL-OILED, HARD-ROCKING UNIT.
MEANWHILE, THE SQUEAKY SABBATH MACHINE LUMBERS ONCE AGAIN INTO THE STUDIO. TONY IOMMI, NOW COMPLETELY REFORMED FROM DRUGS AND DRINK, PRODUCES.
I'M JUST FUMIN', GEEZER, THE ALBUMS TAKE LONGER AND LONGER TO MAKE.
'E SPENDS HALF THE DAY JUST TUNIN' UP! I ONLY WANNA GET BACK TO SOME BASIC, HARD ROCK. HOW DID TONY END UP PRODUCIN'? I DON'T REMEMBER VOTING...
AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, TONY IOMMI WOULD BE HARD PUSHED TO PRODUCE A FART!!!
THE METICULOUSLY CRAFTED RECORD, WHEN RELEASED, FAILS TO MAKE A SALES SPLASH, HITTING ONLY #51 IN AMERICA (THOUGH IT CLIMBS SLOWLY TO #13 IN BRITAIN.)
THE COVER KILLED IT! IT'S TWO BLOODY ROBOTS BALLIN' ON AN ELEVATOR. 'AT'S NOT SABBATH IMAGERY!
OZ'S PERSONAL LIFE COMES UNGLUED, AS HIS WIFE (UNSURPRISINGLY) FILES FOR DIVORCE AND HIS FATHER PASSES AWAY. IN NOVEMBER 1977, AFTER SABBATH'S FIRST BRITISH TOUR IN TWO YEARS, OZZY MAKES A SOLEMN PRONOUNCEMENT.
I'M JUST TOO TIRED OF ALL THIS CRAP. SABBATH IS NOTHING BUT A JOKE, NOW. I'M QUITTIN' THE WHOLE SORRY LOT!

SABBATH WASTES NO TIME IN RECRUITING A NEW SCREAMER, EX-SAVOY BROWN VOCALIST DAVE WALKER.
I'M GLAD OZZY'S OUTTA MY HAIR, BUT I'VE GOTTA ADMIT THAT HE'S GONNA BE HARD TO REPLACE. HE GAVE US A LOTTA HEART, IF NOT SOUL. I'M NOT SURE ABOUT DAVE HERE...
OZ CHECKS INTO AN ASYLUM BRIEFLY, IN AN ATTEMPT TO CLEANSE HIS SYSTEM OF ILLICIT SUBSTANCES.
SO, MR. OSBOURNE, TELL US...HOW OFTEN DO YOU MASTURBATE?
WHAT?!? BLOODY HELL, THIS IS WORSE THAN BEIN' IN SABBATH! I MIGHT AS WELL GIVE THEIR LOONY BIN ANOTHER GO AROUND!
WHICH HE DOES, RE-JOINING IN JANUARY 1978.
THE ENTIRE GROUP FLIES TO CANADA TO RECORD "NEVER SAY DIE"
AAARRRGGGHHH!!! TONY, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?! THIRTY GUYS WITH HORNS AT A SABBATH SESSION!?
IN JUNE, THE RECORD IS ONLY HALF DONE (TO OZZY'S DISGUST), THOUGH A SINGLE FOR "NEVER SAY DIE" IS ALREADY A TOP 30 U.K. HIT. THEY MAKE "TOP OF THE POPS" ONCE AGAIN...
THE MUDDLED, DISAPPOINTING LP IS OUT IN OCTOBER, AND ONLY SCRATCHES #78 IN AMERICA (THOUGH IT HITS #12 IN ENGLAND). ANOTHER SINGLE, "HARD ROAD", MAKES THE U.K. TOP 40.
THE GROUP LOGS ONE LAST SHUDDERING CONCERT TOUR, THEIR DEATH-RATTLE EVIDENT TO ALL WHO BEAR WITNESS TO IT. OZZY SLEEPWALKS THROUGH ENTIRE SETS, HIS NOW-AMPLE GIRTH BUSTING RIDICULOUSLY THROUGH THE OLD GLORY DAY THREADS.
PEOPLE THINK I'M INSANE BECAUSE I AM FROWNING ALL THE TIME!

PLAYING BACKUP ON THAT FINAL TOUR IS A MAVERICK NEW WARNER BROTHERS ACT, VAN HALEN.*
RUNNIN' WITH THE DEVIL...
ROCK-N-ROLL #16, PAGE 9 -TODD-THE ROCK HISTORIAN
THE PUMPING, CHARISMATIC NEW GROUP STEALS VIRTUALLY EVERY SHOW FROM THE LOOSE, BORED AND FIGHTING DINOSAURS. ARENAS ARE USUALLY HALF-EMPTY MIDWAY THROUGH THE HEADLINERS' SET
MAN, GIBBY, THESE GUYS ARE LAME! LET'S SPLIT FOR THE DEVIL'S DEN.
YEAH, JAY, VAN HALEN BLEW THESE GUYS AWAY!
1979 FINDS THE GROUP LIVING IN L.A., HOPING TO SORT OUT VARIOUS TAX AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. THEY'RE ALSO SEARCHING FOR A NEW MANAGEMENT CONTRACT.
HOLLYWOOD
THEY SIGN A NEW DEAL WITH THE NOTORIOUSLY HARD-NOSED (BUT PROFESSIONAL) DON ARDEN (WHO'D FORMERLY REPRESENTED THE SMALL FACES AND E.L.O.).
BOYS, IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG AND FRUITFUL RELATIONSHIP. MY DAUGHTER SHARON, HERE, WILL BE MY ASSISTANT...
AND A LOVELIER VISION OF SWEETNESS AND BEAUTY I'VE NEVER BEHELD!
OZ AND SHARON WILL BECOME CLOSER AND CLOSER AS TIME GOES ON...

THEY CHOOSE A STUDIO IN L.A., THOUGH TONY EXPRESSES DOUBT AS TO WHETHER OZZY IS PREPARED FOR THE ORDEAL.
IT'S NOT GONNA BE ANOTHER SIX-MONTH LONG SWEAT FOUNDRY, IS IT TONY?
OZ, IF YOU'RE NOT READY TO RECORD, MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST GO BACK TO ENGLAND AND REST UP. WE'LL LAY DOWN SOME TRACKS AND CALL YOU IN LATER.
AS OZ RETURNS TO THE FARM, TONY EYES A POSSIBLE NEW DI-RECTION.
THIS LITTLE GUY FROM RAINBOW, RONNIE JAMES DIO... HIS TIMBRE AND CONTROL ARE INCREDIBLE!
OZ IS DUE BACK SOON, BUT WE ALL KNOW HE'S READY TO QUIT AGAIN. LET'S SEE WHAT DIO SAYS... I HEAR HE'S OUTTA RAINBOW.
SABBATH, HUH? I'VE ALWAYS DUG YOU GUYS. LISTEN, I'M LIVING IN CONNECTICUT NOW, KIND OF TAKING A BREAK. I'VE BEEN HUSTLING MY ASS OFF SINCE SCHOOL, AND I'M AL-MOST THIRTY NOW!
I STUDIED CLASSICAL TRUMPET, AN' THEN PLAYED BASS. IN '72, ROGER GLOVER PRODUCED ELF AND LET US OPEN FOR PURPLE. THEN I JOINED HIS BAND.
WHEN RITCHIE QUIT TO FORM RAINBOW,* I WENT ALONG FOR THE RIDE, DID FIVE ALBUMS. I'M NOT SURE IF I'M READY TO COMMIT TO ANOTHER BAND ALREADY! I'LL THINK ABOUT IT..
*ROCK-N-ROLL #10. -TODD
WELL, GET BACK TO US SOON. I'VE GOT TO KNOW WHAT TO TELL THE RECORD COMPANY BEFORE OZ ARRIVES!

THE INEVITABLE FACE-OFF IS VIOLABLE.
SO I COME ALL THE WAY BACK JUST TO BE SACKED, IS THAT IT?
LOOK, OZ, YOU ALREADY QUIT. THE LAST ALBUM WAS JUST A CONCESSION ON EVERYONE'S PART. WE'RE GONNA KEEP GOING UNDER THE SABBATH BANNER, AND WE WANT YOU TO SIGN AWAY ALL LEGAL RIGHTS TO THE NAME...
OH, YOU'D LIKE THAT, YOU MEGALOMANIACAL TURD, YOU! WELL, I'LL TELL YA, IT'LL COST YA A FAIR PENNY!
OZ LATER SIGNS THE RELEASE, TO THE TUNE OF A FIVE FIGURE SETTLEMENT.
MARCH 1979 SEES DIO IN THE STUDIO WITH SABBATH, RECORDING "HEAVEN AND HELL" AS OZZY MISERABLY CONTEMPLATES HIS CAREER CHOICES (WITH A LITTLE SUPPORT FROM SHARON ARDEN).
OTHER THINGS ARE HAPPENING ON AMERICA'S WEST COAST, AS QUIET RIOT PREPARES TO STEAM UP THE CONCERT CIRCUIT WITH THEIR PRODIGIOUS 17 YEAR-OLD GUITARIST RANDY RHOADS, A FIERY PLAYER WHO ALSO TEACHES ADVANCED MUSIC AT A LOCAL COLLEGE.
SABBATH'S SECOND WIND, AND RETURN TO PROMINENCE, IS SIGNALLED BY THE RELEASE OF THEIR FIRST "BLACK DIO" ALBUM, IN THE SPRING OF 1980. THE TITLE SINGLE MAKES #28 IN AMERICA.

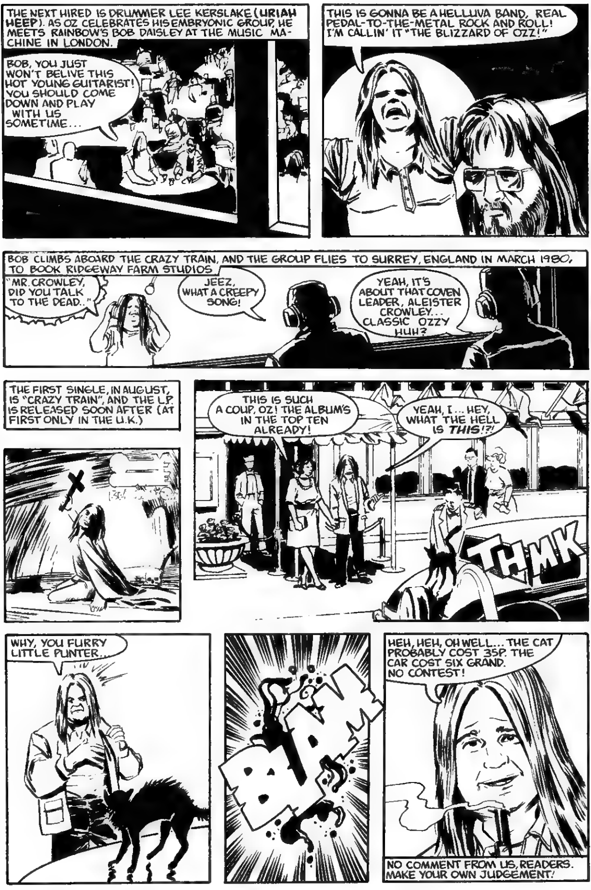

HOWEVER, BEFORE ITS RELEASE, IN JULY 1979...
WHAT'S THIS I HEAR ABOUT YOU NOT WANTING TO TOUR, GEEZER?
I DUNNO, TONY IT'S BEEN NONSTOP FOR YEARS NOW. I FORGET WHAT MY HOUSE LOOKS LIKE!
I DON'T NECESSARILY WANT TO QUIT.. JUST TAKE A BREATHER.
GEEZER'S TOUR REPLACEMENT IS GEOFF NICOLS (QUARTZ), THOUGH THE ORIGINAL SABBATH BASSIST IS BACK FROM "SABBATICAL" IN TIME TO RECORD THE NEXT L.P. "MOB RULES."
WELL, THE ALBUM IS COMING ALONG FINE SO FAR...
EXCEPT FOR OUR PRIMA DONNA SINGER!
DON ARDEN SAYS WE'VE GOT AN OFFER TO TOUR WITH BLUE OYSTER CULT. THEY WANT TO CALL IT THE "BLACK AND BLUE TOUR!"
HAVE THEY SOLD MORE RECORDS THAN US? WHO'S GONNA HEADLINE? IT SHOULD BE US ESPECIALLY WITH MY NAME AND EXPERIENCE IN THE EQATION...
LITTLE FAIRY'S GOT A BIG HEAD TO MATCH HIS MOUTH DOESN'T HE?
DON'T SWEAT IT, RON THIS IS A NEW START FOR US. WE HAVE TO KICK OUT THE OLD IMAGE FOR GOOD.
THEN IT DOESN'T HELP THAT NEMS IS COMING OUT WITH "SABBATH: LIVE AT LAST" IN JULY! THAT OLD '75 SHOW IS ANCIENT HISTORY, BUT THEY OWN ALL THE OLD RECORDINGS. IT MAKES ME SICK, IT DOES.
I REALLY FEEL SICK, BLOKES...LIKE I FEEL AS IF I MIGHT FALL OVER DEAD RIGHT THIS MINUTE!
THE LIVE RECORD, AS WELL AS A "PARANOID" RE-RELEASE, HITS THE U.K. TOP FORTY, BUT BILL WARD'S ILLNESS FORCES HIM, IN THE FALL OF 1980 TO BOW OUT OF SABBATH. HE'S REPLACED BY VINNIE APICE (BROTHER OF VANILLA FUDGE'S CARMINE).

"THE MOB RULES" IS OUT IN NOVEMBER 1981 (IT HITS U.S. #3 AND U.K. #12), AND MUCH OF THE TOUR IS RECORDED FOR AN UPCOMING LIVE ALBUM.
MOB RULES
THE GROUP ALSO APPEARS ON THE SOUNDTRACK TO THE HASTILY-ASSEMBLED ANIMATED FILM, "HEAVY METAL."
TONY, HOWEVER, IS UNHAPPY WITH "MOB", AND MUSES ON ITS INADEQUACIES WHILE MIXING DOWN THE LIVE ALBUM IN NOVEMBER 1982.
DIO JUST INTERJECTS ALL THIS SWORD AND SORCERY AND MYTHOLOGICAL IMAGERY INTO THE MIX, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER IT MATCHES THE MUSIC.
I'M NOT SO SURE HOW MUCH LONGER THIS LITTLE COLLABORATION IS GOING TO LAST.
HELLO, TONY. HOW'S THE MIX COMIN'?
YOU NEED ANOTHER HAND AT THE BOARD?
I NOTICED THAT SOME OF MY SONGS NEED THE VOCALS BRIGHTENED UP A BIT...
YOU SHIT! YOU'VE ALREADY TAMPERED WITH THE TAPES ENOUGH, TRYIN' TO BRING YOUR VOICE UP IN THE MIX! THESE AREN'T *YOUR* SONGS... YOU'RE IN A BAND NOW, *BLACK SABBATH*!
NOT ANYMORE, I'M NOT! PISS OFF, I'M GONE... YOU GUYS'LL SINK LIKE A STEEL DUCK WITHOUT ME!
YES, PRETTY MUCH AN ACCURATE PREDICTION. TRUTH TO TELL, THE GROUP HAD BEEN ON BORROWED TIME SINCE OZZY'S DEPARTURE.

"THE MOB RULES" IS OUT IN NOVE
MEANWHILE, IN THE LAND OF OZ.......
N THE SOUNDTRACK TO
IMATED FILM, "HEAVY
TONY, HOWEVER, IS
ADEQUACIES WHIL
1982.
DIO JUS
THIS S ORD A
LOGI IMAG
LEG OF W
O SURE HOW MUCH
IS LITTLE
TION IS
ST.
HELLO NY,
HOW'S THE MU
COMIN'?
AT THE
NOT ORE, I'M
NOT FF, I'M
GO ... YOU GUYS'LL
S LIK STEEL
OUT ME!
YES, PRE AN A URATE PRE-
DIC TO THE GROUP
HA BORROWED TIME.
SINCE OZZY'S EPARTURE.

WE LAST SAW OZ AT THE DAWN OF THE BURGEONING EIGHTIES, LIVING IN A RENTED ROOM AT L.A.'S LA PARK HOTEL, WITH PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HELP FROM SHARON ARDEN.
JOHN, YOU'VE GOT TO SHAKE THIS BLUE FUNK!
YOU CAN'T SPEND EVERY DAY IN BED AND ALL YOUR NIGHTS GETTING KICKED OUT OF EVERY BAR IN L.A.!
YOU KNOW, YOU'VE GOT THE NAME, THE TALENT, AND THE POTENTIAL TO LEAVE SABBATH IN YOUR DUST, IF YOU'D ONLY MOVE FASTER!
MY FATHER AND I ORIGINALLY THOUGHT WE'D DROP THEIR CONTRACT TO MANAGE YOU, BUT YOU'RE NOT DOING ANYTHING!
REALLY? YOU AND DON WERE THAT SURE I'D BE ABLE TO KEEP GOIN'?
I SUPPOSE IT'D BE A CHANCE TO PICK BLOKES THAT CAN DO THE JOB WITHOUT ALL THE FIGHTIN' AND FARTIN' AND FUGGIN' AROUND. AND IF I DON'T LIKE IT, I CAN JUST FIND NEW GUYS TO PLAY WITH! WHO WOULD I HIRE?
WE CAN HOLD AUDITIONS THROUGH DAD'S RECORD COMPANY, JET. IT'LL MEAN SCREENING A LOT OF HOPEFULS... ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE UP FOR IT?
I WILL BE, JUST AS SOON AS I JET UP SOME JUICE...
EH, WOTT???

SHARON'S CAMPAIGN TO KEEP OZ (RELATIVELY) STRAIGHT AND FOCUSED RESULTS IN A LONG SERIES OF PUBLICIZED TRYOUTS.
GOD, IT'S 2 A.M. AND I STILL HAVE A DOZEN GUYS WHO'VE BEEN HERE SINCE NOON!
WELL, NEXT UP IS "RANDY RHOADS, 21 YEARS OLD, FROM CALIFORNIA" ANOTHER AMERICAN SNOT-NOSE
CALL HIS NUMBER AND LET'S HEAR HIM.....
SCREE
ROAR!!!
REEER
THUN
EH, WOT'S THAT, THEN?! HOLY...THAT CHICK CAN PLAY! WOW!!!
THAT'S A GUY, OZ, AND YOU'RE RIGHT! MR. RHOADS, THAT WAS SIMPLY PHENOMENAL!
THAT'S BLOODY WELL IT, INNIT? KID COMES OUTTA A CLOSET SOMEWHERE AND HE'S THE BEST PLAYER I EVER HEARD!
YOU'RE HIRED!

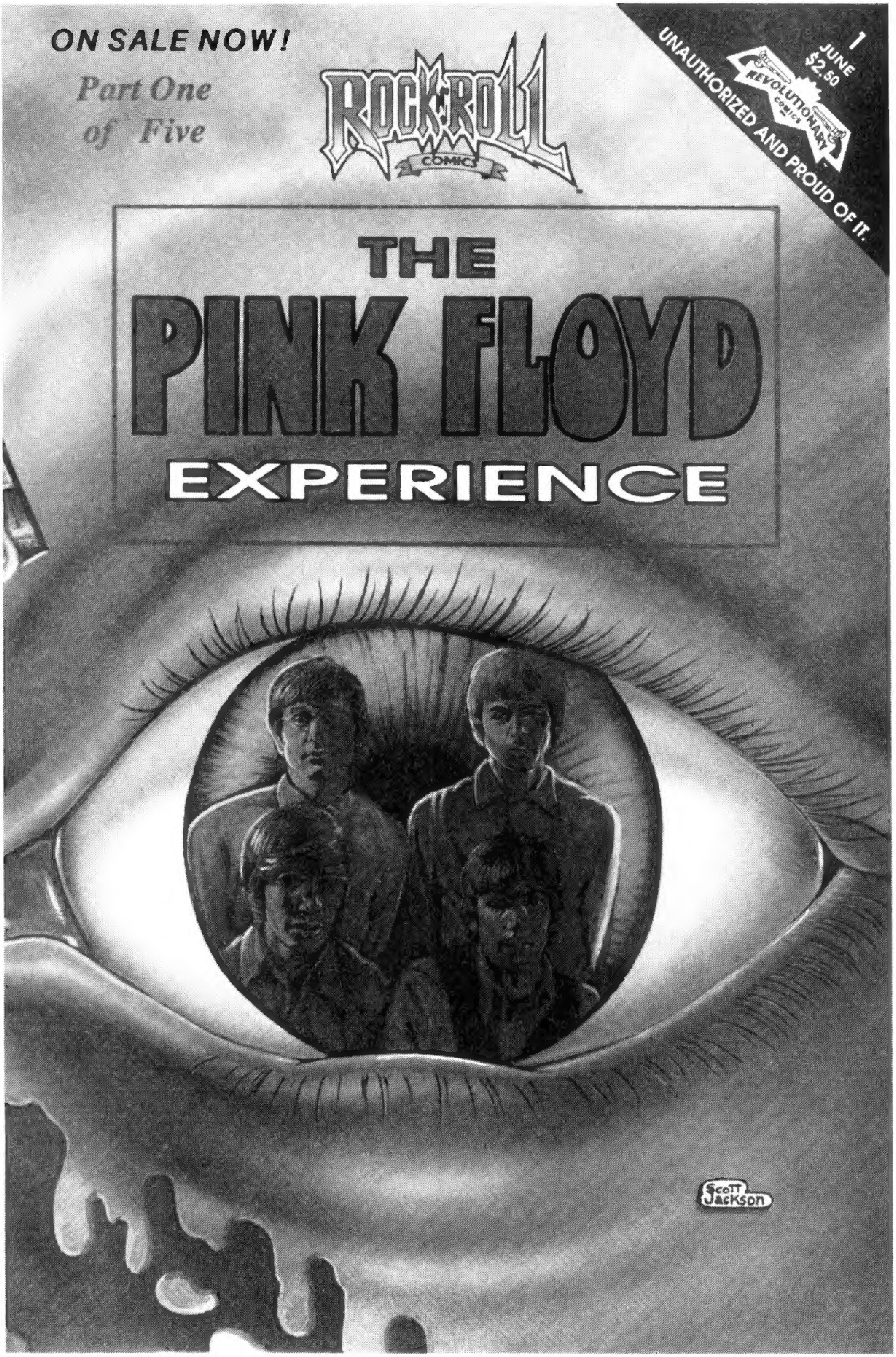

THE NEXT HIRED IS DRUMMER LEE KERSLAKE (URIAH HEEP). AS OZ CELEBRATES HIS EMBRYONIC GROUP, HE MEETS RAINBOW'S BOB DAISLEY AT THE MUSIC MACHINE IN LONDON.
BOB, YOU JUST WON'T BELIVE THIS HOT YOUNG GUITARIST! YOU SHOULD COME DOWN AND PLAY WITH US SOMETIME...
THIS IS GONNA BE A HELLUVA BAND, REAL PEDAL-TO-THE-METAL ROCK AND ROLL! I'M CALLIN' IT "THE BLIZZARD OF OZZ!"
BOB CLIMBS ABOARD THE CRAZY TRAIN, AND THE GROUP FLIES TO SURREY, ENGLAND IN MARCH 1980, TO BOOK RIDGEWAY FARM STUDIOS.
"MR. CROWLEY, DID YOU TALK TO THE DEAD..."
JEEZ, WHAT A CREEPY SONG!
YEAH, IT'S ABOUT THAT COVEN LEADER, ALEISTER CROWLEY... CLASSIC OZZY HUH?
THE FIRST SINGLE, IN AUGUST, IS "CRAZY TRAIN", AND THE L.P. IS RELEASED SOON AFTER (AT FIRST ONLY IN THE U.K.)
THIS IS SUCH A COUP, OZ! THE ALBUM'S IN THE TOP TEN ALREADY!
YEAH, I... HEY, WHAT THE HELL IS *THIS*!?!
THMK
WHY, YOU FURRY LITTLE PUNTER...
BLAM
HEH, HEH, OH WELL... THE CAT PROBABLY COST 35P. THE CAR COST SIX GRAND. NO CONTEST!
NO COMMENT FROM US, READERS. MAKE YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT!

SURPRISINGLY, THE NEXT SINGLE IS A MELANCHOLY BUT MADNESS - TINGED BALLAD.
"GOODBYE TO ROMANCE, GOODBYE TO FRIENDS..."
THE FIRST-EVER SOLO JAUNT BEGINS IN GLASGOW SCOTLAND, IN LATE 1980, AT THE APOLLO THEATRE.
TONIGHT: OZZY OSBOURNE WITH
OZ SHOWS NO RELUCTANCE TOWARDS DROPPING IN THE OCCASIONAL DEFINITIVE SABBATH CLASSIC.
"I... AM... IRON MAN"
THE ALBUM ALSO FEATURES "SUICIDE SOLUTION", A SONG WHICH WILL EVENTUALLY RESULT IN A REAL-LIFE SUICIDE AND A CONTROVERSIAL LAWSUIT... MORE ON THAT LATER, THOUGH.
IN EARLY 1981, THE ALBUM REACHES PLATINUM STATUS OVERSEAS, THOUGH OZ STILL FINDS CAUSE TO BITCH.
JEEZUS, SHARON, IT'S LIKE THE EARLY SABBATH DAYS. I GOT PAID NEXT TO NOTHING, AND NOW EVERYBODY ELSE IS MAKING MILLIONS OFF THE RECORD!
WELL, YOURS WAS A SURPRISE COMEBACK TO THE RECORD COMPANY! NOW WE CAN WRESTLE A MUCH BIGGER ADVANCE, AND ROYALTIES TOO! YOU JUST HAD TO PROVE YOUR MARKETABILITY.
TAXI
NOW, WE TAKE THE SAME HOT BAND BACK TO RIDGEWAY FARM AND RECORD A FOLLOW-UP!
THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING!
YEAH, LET'S CELEBRATE!
THIS LOOKS LIKE A GOOD PLACE TO TEST THE LOCAL WARES...
OZ, YOU PROMISED!
YOU'VE ALREADY TESTED MORE SUBSTANCES THAN THE F.D.A.!
GOGO BAR

DURING THE RECORDING OF "DIARY OF A MADMAN", OZ IS DRINKING AGAIN, BUT HIS SODDEN CREATIVITY IS STEERED INTO A PRODUCTIVE MODE BY THE ENDLESSLY ENERGETIC AND INNOVATIVE RANDY RHOADS.
RHOADS' FLASHY GUITAR OVERDRIVE PICKS UP THE PEDESTRIAN SONGS BY THE SHORT HAIRS AND SENDS THEM SPINNING LIKE A SPUTNIK THROUGH THE STRATOSPHERE.
CLEAN, TOUCH-TONE PERFECT NOTES. A FAST AND LIQUID STYLE... RANDY'S PERVASIVE INFLUENCE WOULD BE FELT ON ROCK GUITAR FOR SOME TIME TO COME.
AS THE "BLIZZARD" RECORD MAKES THE U.S. SCENE, OZ PREPARES FOR AN AMERICAN TOUR
I'M REALLY NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS, SHARON ..
I SURE DON'T WANT TO DO ANY BACKUP GIGS. THAT'D BE, I DUNNO.... FAILURE!
WELL, THAT'S ALL FINE, BUT IT'LL LEAVE US FEWER AVAILABLE VENUES.
YOU'RE STILL NOT ROAD-TESTED AS A SOLO ACT IN THE STATES!
WE'LL SEE HOW IT GOES..
SHARON NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED.. ... THE TOUR WOULD BE AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS. BEHIND THE SCENES, HOWEVER, THINGS AREN'T QUITE SO ROSY......

LEE KERSLAKE AND BOB DAISLEY CONFRONT OZZY..
LISTEN, OZ, WE WANT A BIGGER CUT. WE KNOW YOU'RE MAKING MORE OFF THE TOUR AND BRITISH ALBUM SALES THAN YOU'RE LETTING ON!
YEAH, AND MANAGEMENT WON'T GIVE US ANY SPECIFICS.
YOU'VE GOT YOUR HAND AROUND THE ENTIRE WAD.
THIS IS JUST THE CRAP I PUT UP WITH FROM SABBATH! I'M NOT GONNA SPEND MY TIME MOANIN' ABOUT MONEY AND CARS INSTEADA WORKING ON THE MUSIC! AND MY BAND HAS TO FEEL THE SAME WAY!
THIS AMERICAN TOUR'S TOO IMPORTANT TO GO INTO HALF-ARSED! SHARON'S REALLY MADE THAT EVIDENT, AND FER ONCE I WANNA KEEP MY HEAD SCREWED ON LONG ENOUGH TO DO IT. I DON'T NEED ANY BICKERIN' BACKSTABBIN'!
IF YOU TWO DON'T LIKE YER DEAL, GET THE HELL OUT! I COULD PICK UP A MORE DEDICATED RHYTHM SECTION IN A NURSERY!
PISSES ME OFF, IT DOES. I'M NOT SO MAD AT KERSLAKE...HE'S OKAY, BUT DAISLY PUT HIM UP TO IT AND THAT BASTARD'S GOT THE SHORT-EST ARMS AND THE LONGEST POCKETS OF ANY BLOKE I EVER MET!

BEFORE THE U.S. TOUR STARTS, AN ELEVENTH HOUR ALTERATION, IN MAY 1981, FINDS DRUMMER TOMMY ALDRIDGE (BLACK OAK ARKANSAS), A HALF-INDIAN FROM FLORIDA, ALONG FOR THE RIDE. RANDY ALSO BRINGS IN HIS OLD QUIET RIOT BASSIST, FLORIDIAN RUDY SARZO.
THE NEW UNIT REHEARSES IN L.A., AND THE SOUND IS SUITABLY TIGHT.
WE'RE AS READY AS WE'RE GONNA GET, BUT I'M STILL WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PLAYING HALF-EMPTY HOUSES.
WELL, WE'VE GOT A LOT OF ADVANCE PUBLICITY OUT, AND TICKET SALES ARE GREAT SO FAR. PLUS, I DON'T KNOW IF OZ TOLD YOU, BUT I THREW OUT ALL HIS TIRED OLD "SABBATH" CLOTHES AND DESIGNED HIM A FLASHY, NEW WARDROBE!
YEAH, I'M LIKE THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN NOW. SHE REBUILT ME... SHE'S EVEN TALKIN' ME INTO DYING MY HAIR LIGHTER AND GETTING A SHAG CUT!
HOWEVER, OMINOUS EVENTS LOOM ON THE HORIZON. OZ GETS INVITED TO A CBS RECORDS CONVENTION, TO HOB-NOB WITH THE EXECUTIVES, AGENTS AND PROMOTERS WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO BE FORCEFEEDING HIM TO THE AMERICAN PUBLIC.
SHARON, I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA!
A STUNT THAT'LL GET THESE BOOKIE JOCKSTRAPS TO REMEMBER MY NAME FER A CHANGE!
FIRST I NEED TO BUY SOME DOVES...
IT WOULD BE A PARTY THAT NOBODY WOULD EVER FORGET, TO BE SURE!
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE IN PART TWO:
OZZY OSBOURNE AND BLACK SABBATH II
ALL ABOARD THE CRAZY TRAIN!


ON SALE NOW!
Part One of Five
ROCK'N'ROLL COMICS
1
JUNE
$2.50
REVOLUTIONARY COMICS
UNAUTHORIZED AND PROUD OF IT.
THE PINK FLOYD EXPERIENCE
Scott Jackson

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

TO THE ONLY COMIC THAT MATTERS

ROCK N ROLL COMICS™

12 ISSUES, $30.

ROCK N' ROLL COMICS **MAGAZINE**
12 ISSUES $35.40

SEND NO MONEY!
JUST CALL TO SUBSCRIBE!

1–612–688–7827

BACK ISSUES $3.00 EACH (+$2. per order for shipping)

ROCK N' ROLL COMICS

1 (GUNS N' ROSES); 2 (METALLICA); 14 (SEX PISTOLS); 15 (POISON); 16 (VAN HALEN); 21 (PRINCE); 22 (AC/DC)

ROCK N' ROLL COMICS MAGAZINE

1 (KISS); 2 (NEW KIDS); 3 (GUNS N' ROSES); 4 (METALLICA); 5 (AEROSMITH); 6 (LED ZEPPELIN);

OTHER STUFF

STAN BACK #1, BARF #1,2,3; STICKBOY #4
ENCYCLOPEDIA METALLICA (BOOK) All of the best metal groups including Guns N' Roses and Crue $6.95

SEND A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
REVOLUTIONARY BACK ISSUES
519 UNIVERSITY #103
SAN DIEGO, CA 92103

ALL BOOKS GUARANTEED TO ARRIVE IN MINT CONDITION!

WHO WILL BE FEATURED IN UPCOMING ISSUES OF

ROCK N' ROLL COMICS™

YOU DECIDE! CALL THIS NUMBER

1-900-329-3668

TO PLACE YOUR VOTE

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE GROUP OR RECORDING ARTIST (YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LEAVE A RECORDED MESSAGE)! WE WILL TABULATE THE VOTES FROM ALL CALLS RECEIVED, AND PRINT THE RESULTS NEXT ISSUE!

THE BAND/RECORDING ARTIST WITH THE MOST VOTES WILL BE FEATURED IN AN UPCOMING ISSUE OF

ROCK ***N'*** ROLL COMICS

YOU CAN EVEN VOTE FOR BANDS WE'VE ALREADY FEATURED! IF THEY WIN, WE'LL DO AN ALL-NEW ISSUE ABOUT THEM!

CALL NOW TO VOTE FOR YOUR CHOICE FOR THE COVER OF ROCK ***N'*** ROLL COMICS!

ROCK N' ROLL COMICS™

FEATURING:

YOUR FAVE!

Cost $2.00 per call! If under 18, ask permission first! Thanks!

JOHNNY
Scott Jackson